

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A water absorbent comprising  
(a) particles of a water absorbent polymer,  
and

(b) a nitrogenous polymer containing from 5  
to 17 mol/kg, based on the total weight of the nitrog-  
enous polymer, of protonatable nitrogen atoms.

2. (Currently amended) A The water absor-  
bent ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the nitrogenous  
polymer is a hydrolysis product of a homo- or copolymer  
of an N-vinylcarboxamide, ~~and/or~~ N-vinylcarboximide, or  
a mixture thereof.

3. (Currently amended) A The water absor-  
bent ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized by~~  
having

- a particle size distribution wherein more  
than 98% by weight of the particles are from 100 to 850  
 $\mu\text{m}$  in size,

- a Saline Flow Conductivity of at least  $30 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3\text{s/g}$ ,

- a Ball Burst Strength (30 min) of at least  
50 gf,

- a Ball Burst Strength (16 h) of at least 50  
gf, and

- a quotient [BBS (30 min) - BBS (16 h)]/BBS  
(30 min) of less than 0.8.

4. (Currently amended) A The water absorbent ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 2, wherein the nitrogenous polymer is a hydrolysis product of a homopolymer of N-vinylformamide ~~but has~~ having a degree of hydrolysis in the range from 30 to 80 mol%.

5. (Currently amended) A The water absorbent ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the nitrogenous polymer has a weight average molecular weight in the range from 10 000 to 500 000 daltons.

6. (Currently amended) A The water absorbent ~~as claimed in any preceding~~ of claim, 1 comprising from 0.001% to 5% by weight of the nitrogenous polymer, based on the weight of the water absorbent polymer.

7. (Currently amended) A The water absorbent ~~as claimed in any preceding~~ of claim, 1 further comprising a finely divided water-insoluble salt.

8. (Currently amended) A The water absorbent ~~as claimed in any preceding of~~ claim, 1 wherein the water absorbent polymer is polymerized from

- from 49.9% to 99.9% by weight of at least one monomer A selected from the group consisting of monoethylenically unsaturated acids and salts thereof,
- from 0% to 50% by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer B other than said monomer A, and
- from 0.001% to 20% by weight of at least one crosslinking monomer C.

9. (Currently amended) A The water absorbent ~~as claimed in any preceding of~~ claim, 1 wherein the particles of the water absorbent polymer are surface postcrosslinked.

10. (Currently amended) A The water absorbent ~~as claimed in any preceding of~~ claim, 1 further comprising a carrier selected from the group consisting of cellulose, modified cellulose, rayon, polypropylene, polyester, hydrophilicized nylon, polyethylene, polyacrylic, ~~polyamides~~ polyamide, polystyrene, polyurethane, and polyacrylonitrile.

11. (Currently amended) A The water absorbent as claimed in claim 10, wherein the nitrogenous polymer is applied onto the carrier.

12. (Currently amended) A process for producing a water absorbent ~~as claimed in any preceding claims, which comprises~~ of claim 1 comprising applying the nitrogenous polymer or a solution thereof ~~being applied~~ onto the particles of the water absorbent polymer and, ~~as the case may be, dried~~ if necessary, drying the water absorbent.